

Socialist candidates back workers' fights



John Hawkins, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Illinois governor, talks August 26 with Teamsters on strike at ProBuild lumber mill in Yorkville, Illinois.

Illinois socialists call for labor party

BY LAURA ANDERSON

CHICAGO—"Working people should oppose the layoffs and cutbacks that Mayor Richard Daley is setting the stage for in his 2011 budget," John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Illinois governor, said to a crowd of 500 at a September 16 public hearing on the city budget. Hawkins was responding to plans outlined by Daley that place the burden of the economic depression on the

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Protests answer L.A. cop brutality

BY NAOMI CRAINE AND ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES—The September 5 killing of Manuel Jamines by police here sparked several days of protests and an ongoing discussion about cop brutality in the working-class neighborhood of Westlake. Jamines, a 37-year-old day laborer from Guatemala, was shot twice in the head by Los Angeles Police Department officer Frank Hernandez. The killing took place on

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Gains by tea party unnerve Republicans and Democrats

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK—Tea party-backed real estate millionaire Carl Paladino routed former congressman Richard Lazio to win the Republican nomination for governor in the September 14 primaries here. While shaking up the Republican establishment, Paladino's win and other tea party victories also have sections of the Democratic Party on edge.

In Delaware, tea party candidate Christine O'Donnell won the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate. She handily beat Michael Castle, a congressman since 1993, who had the support of state and national Republican leaders. These follow earlier tea party victories in gaining Republican Party nominations in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Nevada, and Utah.

Channeling the resentment felt by many middle-class voters and some workers, Paladino promised to "clean out Albany with a baseball bat" to dislodge what he calls "the ruling class."

"We are mad as hell," Paladino said in his victory speech September 14. "The people have had enough."

Like other tea party candidates, Paladino emphasized fiscal responsibility and opposition to big government and its meddling in individual's private affairs. He didn't say much about his opposition to legalizing undocumented workers and abortion rights, as well as his views on other social issues.

As the U.S. economy falters and unemployment continues to clobber working people—and in the absence of forces moving in the direction of a mass working-class party independent of the Democrats and Republicans—the tea party wins a hearing for voting out incumbents from both parties. According to the *Washington Post*, "poll after poll" shows that both the Democratic and Republican parties are "deeply unpopular with the electorate looking for something new and different."

While the tea party is a heteroge-

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Washington tightens its noose around Iran

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Divisions among Iran's rulers are sharpening as economic sanctions take their toll on growing layers of the population, and the U.S. and Israeli governments prepare for military action if Tehran does not stop enriching uranium for its nuclear program. Washington and Tel Aviv contend the enriched uranium will be used to make a nuclear weapon, which Tehran denies.

The former head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, Danny Yatom, said September 12 that "the price Israel will pay when Iran has a nuclear bomb is immeasurably heavier than what we will pay if someone carries out an attack on some of Iran's nuclear sites." U.S. officials have acknowledged discussions with Tel Aviv on launching a military strike

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Poverty up as end of recession is announced

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Poverty in the working-age population of the United States increased in 2009 to its highest level in almost 50 years. One in seven people now lives below the official poverty line of \$21,954 for a family of four, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics released September 16.

The figures show the impact on working people of increased unemployment, rising prices, and cuts in services and benefits, despite the National Bureau of Economic Research's announcement that the recession officially ended in June 2009.

The poverty threshold is an arbitrary figure established by the government. It is primarily used to set levels for means testing that restricts

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Drive opens to get out 'Workers Power' book, 'Militant' weekly



Militant support Francisco Cambero selling *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* in Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, September 18.

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Supporters of the *Militant* finished the first week of the fall campaign to sell 1,800 copies of the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes, and 2,100 subscriptions to this newspaper. The drive, which began on September 11, runs through November 9; so far, 127 copies of the book and 225 subscriptions have been sold.

In the United States, socialist workers in Des Moines, Iowa, are leading the way in reaching out with the *Workers Power* book and the *Militant*

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‘Everybody in Cuba has access to culture’

BY CAROLINE BELLAMY
AND ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON—Aida Bahr, a prize-winning fiction writer, literary critic, and screenwriter in Cuba, recently spoke at two universities in the United Kingdom on “Culture and the Cuban Revolution.”

On September 10 Bahr spoke as a guest lecturer at a meeting of 70 people hosted by the Hispanic Studies Department at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. The event was chaired by Dr. Fiona Mackintosh, a university lecturer in Latin American literature. The next day more than 80 heard Bahr at the University of London’s Birkbeck College. The events were broadly sponsored by bookshops, artists and other cultural figures, students, and trade unionists.

Bahr is director of Editorial Oriente, a publishing house based in Santiago de Cuba. Actor and screenwriter Andy de la Tour, who chaired the London event, noted that Bahr is also one of the organizers of the annual Havana International Book Fair, which he attended in February. “It was the high point of my trip to Cuba this year,” he said. “It’s not a publishers’ and agents’ love-in like the Frankfurt and London book fairs . . . but a truly mass event.”

Bahr described the watershed in Cuban culture opened by the 1959 revolution, as working people used the conquest of state power to eliminate capitalism on the island and take ever-greater control of society. The 1960–61 campaign to eliminate illiteracy was key and “one of the greatest achievements of the revolution,” she said.

Bahr described how her mother gave

classes in working-class neighborhoods in their hometown of Holguín when tens of thousands of young people went to the countryside to teach peasants how to read and write. “1961 was the year of the Bay of Pigs and young literacy volunteers were targeted by counterrevolutionaries,” she explained. “A number lost their lives for what they were doing but many times more volunteered to replace them.”

At the same time, institutions were created to promote culture. Today “every municipality has a library, theater, cinema, gallery, art school, and museum,” including in municipalities made up of scattered villages, Bahr said. “So everybody has access to culture. Not everyone becomes a performer, but everyone is able to enjoy culture.”

Shift in cultural policy

Bahr gave a vivid description of the shifting trends of cultural life in Cuba from the 1960s up to the present.

“In the ’60s many things were going on; there were lively debates and many magazines. Books were sold for 40 cents. The quality was poor, but we wanted to read them, not look at them. It was a time of massive participation.”

Bahr was taking her first steps as a writer in the ’70s, at a time when “we became dependent on economic aid from the Soviet Union and with that came considerable Soviet influence on cultural policy,” she explained. “Socialist realism was emphasized; art was considered in official policy as a means to ‘form the population.’



Militant/Anne Howie

Aida Bahr (right), prominent writer in Cuba, speaks on “Culture and the Cuban Revolution” at University of Edinburgh, Scotland, September 10. Dr. Fiona Mackintosh (left), chaired event.

“Some of our best writers were marginalized because they dealt with subjects like homosexuality that were considered taboo. The Beatles were judged to be ‘decadent’!”

These policies were later reversed.

“Some refer to the ‘grey five years’ from ’71 to ’76, while others speak of the whole decade as the ‘dark period.’ Both are right,” she said. In 1976 the National Council of Culture was disbanded and the Ministry of Culture founded. “This was not just a change of institutions, but a change of policy.”

“So ‘grey five years’ refers to the official policy,” she explained. “But you also have to change the people. Many in official positions still held to the discredited policy.”

Armando Hart, one of the historic leaders of the clandestine revolutionary struggle against the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in the 1950s, became minister of culture in 1976. Bahr explained that Hart called for a return to the inclusive cultural policy of the early years of the revolution, captured in the slogan: “Within the revolution, everything. Against the revolution, nothing.”

“In the ’80s there was a new debate, a new openness,” Bahr said. “A critical eye on Cuban art and fiction was developing.” There was an abundance of literary festivals and writers’ workshops. She described organizing book presentations in the streets and in factories. In one case she and a colleague brought a few copies of a book to present in a shoe factory, but the workers kept coming up to buy them, so they had to go back twice for more.

When the deep crisis hit in the 1990s, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the abrupt ending of favorable trade and aid, it was “not a setback for creation, but for the material means of creation.” Writers started to deal with “unpleasant subjects,” such as prostitution.

Paper shortage

Cuba continues to face economic challenges today. There is a shortage of paper. “Oriente plans to publish 42 books this year, with 27 already edited and ready for printing. But only three have been printed,” she said.

Oriente publishes a wide range of titles, both fiction and nonfiction. “We try to balance genres and tendencies and have both experimental and traditional writing,” Bahr said. “Every year we try to publish some unpublished writers. We’re not worried how well the books sell. We have to select the best.”

Lively question-and-answer periods followed the presentations at both events.

The Edinburgh meeting was sponsored by the Screen Academy Scotland; Joy Dunn, president of the Scottish Trades Union Congress; Elaine Smith, member of Scottish Parliament; Councillor Gordon Munro, Labour spokesperson on culture in Scotland; and many others.

Sponsors of the London event included dancer and choreographer Carlos Acosta; actors Charles Dance, Susan Wooldridge, and Roger Lloyd Pack; writer Pauline Melville; and general secretaries of the journalists and broadcasting trade unions.

THE MILITANT

Working-class view of mosque debate

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The paper explains the importance of freedom of speech, worship, and assembly to protect working people from the capitalist government. Don’t miss an issue!



Militant/Doug Nelson
Demonstration opposing attempts to block construction of mosque in Manhattan.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Australia elections reveal impact of economic crisis

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—After 17 days of negotiations following national elections here, incumbent Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard cobbled together a minority government September 7 after mustering a one-vote majority with the support of one Green and three “independent” members of parliament. The decline in Labor’s popularity over the past year or more and the challenges in forming a government now take place as the unfolding global depression has slowly but surely begun to hit here.

Homelessness and indebtedness are growing. The cost of living is rising and social services are being cut. Official unemployment is relatively low at 5 percent but long-term unemployment has grown by more than one-third in the past year. Unemployment for Aboriginals and all teenagers are both more than 18 percent.

The federal elections August 21 resulted in a deadlock in which no party won the needed majority of 76 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives to form a government. Labor got 72 seats with the conservative Liberal and National coalition gaining 73. This is the first “hung parliament” at a national level since 1940, during the Second World War.

The economy here escaped the worst of the international economic crisis in 2009, buoyed by an ongoing mining boom. Increasing revenues from energy and mineral shipments, especially iron ore and coal to China and elsewhere in Asia, now make up more than one-third of the value of exports from Australia.

Labor’s support slumped as it carried out an anti-working-class course little different from policies under the 1996–2007 conservative coalition government. Only 4.7 million out of the national turnout of more than 13 million voted Labor as first choice under the country’s preferential voting system. Voting is compulsory in Australia. But abstention was higher than past elec-

tions, with well over 1 million not voting or casting a blank ballot.

The Labor loss of seats was heaviest in Queensland and New South Wales. Here state Labor governments have become increasingly unpopular due to the deterioration of public services like hospitals and transport.

For the first time, the Greens won the balance of power in the Senate, with nine seats. A Green candidate also won a formerly Labor-held lower house seat in middle class inner-city Melbourne. Elsewhere the ranked voting system meant that most Green votes flowed to Labor candidates. After the election, Gillard secured an agreement for Green support to a Labor government.

A few months ago the Labor party changed its leadership in an attempt to stem the loss of public support under then prime minister Kevin Rudd. On June 24 Gillard, the deputy leader, was backed to depose Rudd and become prime minister.

The new prime minister made a deal with key mining magnates from big corporations like BHP and Rio Tinto lowering Rudd’s controversial resources tax.

Gillard has also moved to match the opposition’s populist rhetoric against immigrants arriving by boats seeking political asylum. (See accompanying article on this page.)

The rating agency Standard & Poor’s recently warned, “A faltering global economic recovery or softening demand

Montreal forum hears SWP candidates



Militant/John Steele

MONTREAL—Harry D’Agostino, speaking, and Kevin Dwire, Socialist Workers Party candidates for lieutenant governor of New York and Massachusetts governor respectively, addressed 21 people at a special Militant Labor Forum here September 19 about the class struggle in the United States and the response to the SWP campaigns for the November 2 mid-term elections.

D’Agostino described the broad interest of workers on the streets of New York City to the Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes. During a break in the animated discussion period, an appeal was made for the Can\$11,000 Communist League fund drive that brought in another Can\$280, taking the Canada-wide campaign that ends September 26 over the top.

—JOHN STEELE

from China . . . could cause a sharp decline in the Australian economy.”

Some capitalist spokespeople have expressed concern that the new government may not be strong enough to increasingly foist more of the burden of the deepening crisis on the backs of working people. A September 11 *Australian*

editorial said, “Complacency about continued prosperity is the biggest risk.” It warned that the new government would be “judged” by its success in delivering “services, economic stability and long-term reforms,” referring to the employers’ drive to depress wages and press “productivity” through speedup.

Immigrants in Australia fight detentions

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia—About 90 Afghan asylum seekers held at the immigration detention center in Darwin, the capital of Australia’s Northern Territory, pushed through two electrified security fences September 1. Fearing they were about to be deported back to Afghanistan, they staged a seven-

and-a-half-hour protest by the main highway outside the complex.

Their main banner declared, “We are homeless, defenceless and we seek protection.” One of the men told reporters, “I want to go out to talk with you, all of the population of Australia. I need your help.”

The following day 82 of the protesters were transferred to the Curtin detention center near Derby in Western Australia’s far north.

The Afghani action erupted a couple days after a two-day protest by some 120 Indonesians, held in a different part of the Darwin immigration prison. Widely reported as “rioting,” the protest involved most of those detained for crewing boats that have brought several thousand asylum seekers to Australian territory over the last year. Television coverage showed a fire on the grounds of the immigration jail and about a dozen men on a roof brandishing long poles. The inmates eventually agreed to end their action.

Both groups of detainees have been held for as long as 10 months waiting for their cases to be processed. An emergency rally of 40 was held September 3 by the Refugee Action Coalition in Sydney to support the protests.

Since 2008 some 150 boats carrying asylum seekers, mainly from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, have been detained under the Royal Australian Navy’s Operation Resolute. The refugees often pay thousands of dollars to “people smugglers” based in Indonesia to make the dangerous journey in small vessels. Fishermen are generally hired to crew the boats for a few hundred dollars each.

As of September 10 there were a total of 4,903 people held in custody

by the Australian Department of Immigration, 37 percent more than the official capacity of its detention centers. The largest immigration jail is on Christmas Island, south of Java in the Indian Ocean, where more than 2,400 are held, nearly 1,000 in tents.

There are now more than 200 Indonesian fishermen in immigration detention in Australia, facing trial under “people smuggling” laws. Conviction for crewing a boat with five or more refugees carries a penalty of up to 20 years in jail and a A\$220,000 fine (A\$1=US 95 cents). The minimum sentence for first-time offenders is five years in jail.

Operation Resolute also targets “illegal fishing” in the waters between Australia and Indonesia.

Indonesian fishermen have also been hit by a massive oil spill in the Timor Sea last year that has devastated fishing grounds. At the same time the Indonesian government has cut fuel subsidies. Some 90 percent of Indonesia’s 15 million fishermen live below the country’s poverty line.

The protests by the two groups of prisoners took place shortly after a federal election campaign in which both major capitalist parties vied to be the toughest on “border protection” and the “people smuggling” of asylum seekers.

During her campaign, current prime minister Julia Gillard proposed setting up a new regional immigration jail in East Timor. But with opposition from the government of East Timor, the Gillard government announced September 17 that it would instead double the capacity of the detention center in Curtin and establish a new immigration jail near Weipa in the remote far north of Queensland.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

No to Government Interference with Mosque in N.Y.C. Fri., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5, unemployed \$1. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

PENNSLYVANIA

Philadelphia

The Fight Against Police Brutality. Speaker: Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 3701 Pulaski Ave. Tel.: (215) 225-1270.

TEXAS

Houston

China’s ‘Economic Miracle’ and the World Capitalist Crisis. Speaker: Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51-A. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Defend Democratic Rights—Hands Off New York City Mosque; No to Antigay Discrimination. Speaker: representative, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. South (Brandon Street stop on bus no. 7 or 9). Tel.: (206) 323-1755.



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Iowa socialist candidates gain attention in media

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DES MOINES, Iowa—Workers and farmers in Iowa can now learn about the positions of the Socialist Workers Party candidates along with those of their opponents by going online to the *Des Moines Register's* "Compare the Candidates" feature.

The Web site shows the views of incumbent Democratic Party governor Chet Culver, Republican challenger Terry Branstad, SWP candidate David Rosenfeld, and candidates from the Libertarian and Iowa parties, along with their photos. Also shown are the views of the candidates for U.S. Congress from Iowa's Third District, including SWP candidate Rebecca Williamson. The "Compare the Candidates" feature was compiled from answers submitted by the candidates to a survey.

On the question of immigration, for example, incumbent Congressman Leonard Boswell states, "We have to register those individuals who are in

the country illegally," and he calls for a vague "path to citizenship" for some. Republican challenger Brad Zaun says, "I do not support amnesty or a pathway to citizenship for people that have entered the United States illegally. That policy simply encourages people to continue to break our laws."

"I support the full legalization of all immigrants, now," Williamson says. "I join with the millions who have poured into the streets in cities and towns all over the country the past several years calling for a halt to immigration raids, deportations, and 'no-match' letters. I also join those who oppose calling these fellow workers criminals, scapegoating them for capitalism's problems. The Democratic and Republican politicians and other anti-immigrant forces want to obscure the source of the social problems we face. I oppose any delays, fines, or requirements to speak English."

The "Compare the Candidates" page is at <http://data.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/iowa-politics/>.

'Workers Power' campaign

Continued from front page

tant, as SWP candidates there run a spirited election campaign to present a working-class alternative. The *Militant* and the book are promoted as campaign literature for any worker, farmer, or student who is interested in the ideas of the candidates. Several international areas have also gotten off to a good start.

campaign to sell

'Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power' & 'Militant'

Sept. 11–Nov. 9 (week 1)

Country	'Workers Power' books			'Militant' subscriptions		
	quota	sold	%	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES						
Des Moines	110	18	16%	125	14	11%
Chicago	130	12	9%	130	11	8%
New York	375	32	9%	325	29	9%
Twin Cities	100	8	8%	135	18	13%
Philadelphia	65	5	8%	75	17	23%
Houston	50	3	6%	50	9	18%
Miami	50	3	6%	65	7	11%
Los Angeles	135	6	4%	120	9	8%
Boston	45	1	2%	65	8	12%
Atlanta	110	0	0%	140	15	11%
San Francisco	130	0	0%	155	16	10%
Seattle	130	0	0%	140	7	5%
Washington	145	0	0%	125	14	11%
Total U.S.	1575	88	6%	1650	174	11%
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	90	18	20%	90	13	14%
Edinburgh	25	4	16%	35	7	20%
Total UK	115	22	19%	125	20	16%
Canada	50	13	26%	70	13	19%
New Zealand	25	1	4%	60	9	15%
Australia	25	3	12%	55	8	15%
Sweden	18	0	0%	22	1	5%
Total	1808	127	7%	1982	225	11%
Should be	1800	225	13%	2100	263	13%

Local areas have adopted more ambitious goals for the campaign over the past week. Quotas are now higher based on discussions about the political openings to reach out to workers and youth, taking advantage of socialist election campaigns, and the fact that many socialist workers are in big factories with more coworkers who express interest in working-class answers to the capitalist crisis.

One reader of the *Militant*, Jay Rothermel, sent us a suggestion to offer to other readers to help in this campaign:

"I recently purchased the *Workers Power* book from the Pathfinder Web site. It is an exciting and very accessible book. I work in a call center in Cleveland, Ohio.

"The book cover sparked a lot of comment in the break room. Most of my coworkers are young Black women. After I finished the book, it began making the rounds. One coworker has borrowed it for the weekend already and may purchase a copy of her own. She found it easy to start reading because she began with the captions in the many splendid photo sections, which emphasize a political understanding of what the photos are depicting. She was particularly moved by the photos of Black legislators in the South during Radical Reconstruction. 'I didn't know anything about this. I really have to educate myself,' she said.

"This book is a powerful tool. My advice to those who have purchased their copy already is to take it to work, be seen reading it, and be ready to hand it around. What better reason is there to go to work?"

Any readers who would like to help can contact a distributor near them. They are listed on page 8.



Militant/Helen Meyers
Rebecca Williamson (center), Iowa SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Third District, campaigns at September 11 festival in Evelyn Davis Park in Des Moines, Iowa.

ter.com/dmr/iowa-politics/

The September 16 *Register* published a letter from Rosenfeld denouncing the effort by Des Moines police to publicly accuse Black youth of carrying out a "beat whitey night" during the recent Iowa State Fair.

Noting that "the police have had to admit there is no evidence" that any of their allegations about "racially motivated" African American youth are true, Rosenfeld wrote, "The only part of this whole affair that clearly was racially motivated was the demonization of young Black people by the police." He continued, "The rush to judgment and the slanderous characterization of the fights during the state fair were a reflection of the mode of operation of the police."

"I have campaigned for governor in Black communities in Des Moines, Waterloo, and other areas of the state," Rosenfeld added. "I have heard accounts of brutality, abuse, racial profiling, and discrimination carried out by

the police."

The *Register* has also received a letter from Williamson, describing what she learned in discussions with workers in northern Iowa who have worked at the Wright County Egg company, owned by Jack DeCoster, a capitalist food producer with a record of labor and food safety violations.

"The recent sickening of more than 1,000 people from salmonella-contaminated eggs, many traced to DeCoster's farms, highlights the need for working people to demand safe and healthy conditions for workers in the food industry and products free of contamination and disease," Williamson wrote. "This begins with union organizing."

She ended, "Democratic and Republican administrations support capitalists contemptuous of workers rights and food safety and can't be relied upon to enforce existing safety legislation. Working people need a labor party, based on a fighting union movement, which will act in the interests of the laboring majority."

Higher local quotas push up SWP fund goal to \$98,000

BY TOM FISKE

The Socialist Workers Party has raised the goal for its fall party-building fund from \$95,000 to \$98,000. This advance comes after party branches adopted quotas that total \$97,800—\$2,700 more than the original goal.

The fund is organized to help finance the work of the party to reach out to working-class struggles in the United States and around the world. It began on September 11 and will continue until November 9. The fund runs concurrently with a campaign by supporters of the *Militant* newspaper to sell 1,800 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes and 2,100 subscriptions to the *Militant*. The fund depends on the contributions of workers and other supporters of the communist movement.

The Washington, D.C., SWP branch is setting an example of organizing to make its quota of \$7000. "We had a discussion and decided to reach out broadly to ask for contributions from working people," said Omari Musa, a leader of the fund effort there. "Our members in the factories have been selling copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* to coworkers. They plan on following up with each one to discuss the book and also ask for a contribution to the party-building fund." Musa noted that many workers who had

contributed to the fund the previous year have made higher pledges this fall.

The D.C. branch has announced a fund meeting on October 9 featuring Róger Calero, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in New York's 15th District.

Contributions to the fund can be sent to SWP, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Make out checks to SWP.

Party-building fund

Sept. 11–Nov. 9

City	Quota
Atlanta	\$7,800
Boston	\$3,600
Chicago	\$10,000
Des Moines, IA	\$2,700
Houston	\$3,000
Los Angeles	\$8,000
Miami	\$3,000
New York	\$20,000
Philadelphia	\$3,600
San Francisco	\$13,500
Seattle	\$8,600
Twin Cities, MN	\$7,000
Washington, D.C.	\$7,000
Total	\$97,800
National goal	\$98,000

ON THE PICKET LINE

Teachers in New Zealand march to press contract fight

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Chanting “When education is under attack, stand up, fight back,” 2,000 teachers marched through central Auckland September 15. Earlier in the day the teachers had distributed leaflets explaining their fight at street corners and shopping centers across the city. In Wellington, the nation’s capital, 1,000 teachers rallied outside Parliament.

The actions were part of a nationwide, one-day strike by 16,000 public high school teachers from 450 schools. Contract negotiations between their union, the Post Primary Teachers Association, and the government are currently stalled. The teachers are demanding a 4 percent pay raise and government action to limit increased class sizes and workloads.

—Terry Coggan

Cambodia: Garment workers strike over minimum wage

Tens of thousands of garment workers in Cambodia struck for three days September 13–15 demanding the minimum wage be raised to \$93 a month. In July the government had set the wage at \$61. Ken Loo, secretary general of the Garment Manufacturers’ Association, dismissed the workers’ demands as “impossible.”

According to Kong Athit, secretary general of the Cambodian Labour Confederation, more than 68,000 workers from 53 factories struck on the first day. He also told the media that another 52,000 workers had been prevented by their employers from participating. Many others joined the walkout over the next couple of days.

The garment industry in Cambodia employs some 345,000 workers and accounts for more than 70 percent of the country’s exports.

In a similar development, millions of textile workers in Bangladesh walked out in August, reported the *Financial Times*. The workers were demanding the minimum wage be set at \$73 a month, up from \$43.

—Brian Williams

Airport workers in Israel strike one day over pensions

Airport workers at Ben-Gurion International Airport in Israel conducted a one-day strike September 13 demanding that the government guarantee their pensions. The walkout occurred after talks between the general workers’ union, the Histadrut labor federation, and the Israel Airports Authority failed to resolve the issue.

“Workers feared the government would raid their pension fund to cover other debts, including hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation owed to people living near the airport over noise complaints,” reported Associated Press. The Israeli Finance Ministry announced that day a deal had been reached. Finance and Transport Ministries promised the workers that their pensions would be secure.

—Brian Williams



Militant/Terry Coggan

Some 2,000 teachers march in Auckland, New Zealand, September 15 as part of nationwide one-day strike in fight for new contract without increases in class size and workloads.

U.S. government tightens noose around Iran

Continued from front page

against Iran if it appears close to having nuclear weapon capacity.

The *Sunday Times* of London reported that the government of Saudi Arabia has agreed to let Israeli bombers fly over its territory to attack nuclear sites in Iran. Washington is offering to sell Riyadh up to \$60 billion in F-15 combat jets, Apache attack helicopters, and Black Hawk troop transport helicopters. “The deal has been put together in quiet consultations with Israel,” reported the *New York Times*. The paper pointed out that with the weapons purchase come U.S. trainers.

Iranian military commanders continue to argue that Iran can withstand any attack. “Every U.S. warship is within the reach of the coast-to-sea missiles of our armed forces,” Maj. Gen. Yahya Rahim Safavi said September 17.

“The one who’s bluffing is Iran, which is trying to play with cards they don’t have,” said Daniel Ayalon, Israel’s deputy foreign minister. “All the bravado that we see and the testing and the very dangerous and harsh rhetoric are hiding a lot of weaknesses.”

Sanctions levied against Iran by the United Nations, Washington, and major European governments for continuing

to enrich uranium are having a big effect. Forced to conduct financial transactions primarily through Asian banks, Tehran suffered a big blow when both Japan and South Korea decided to enforce sanctions.

Meanwhile, the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has cut off another source of trading for Tehran by freezing the bank accounts of 41 Iranian entities and individuals. “We have also interdicted dozens of ships and inspected hundreds of shipments of Iran-bound cargos . . . and have coordinated closely with American and international authorities,” the UAE ambassador to the United States, Yousef Al Otaiba, declared proudly.

The official stance of Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the clerical leader of the country, is that sanctions have no effect. “Even if the U.S. administration increases the sanctions . . . 100 times more . . . we in Iran are in a position to meet our own requirements,” Ahmadinejad told NBC News September 15.

But at the same time Tehran is taking radical steps in its economy. Iran lacks sufficient refining capacity to produce enough of its own fuel and several major foreign suppliers of gasoline stopped

shipments to Tehran last spring. In September the government announced it was converting all the country’s petrochemical facilities into refineries to produce gasoline to supply consumers, while oil for the strategic reserves will continue to be imported.

Also in September the government announced a ban on importing more than 40 different food items. According to the online *Asia Times*, in the last year milk and yogurt prices doubled, and chicken and lamb went up 75 percent. Unemployment is at least 20 percent.

A senior cleric, Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem-Shirazi, sharply criticized the government September 10. “Officials report every day that inflation has dropped but this is contrary to what people are witnessing,” Press TV reported him saying. “If you give people false figures about inflation, they will not turn pessimistic about the facts on the ground; they will become pessimistic about your figures.”

Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani gave a speech attacking Ahmadinejad September 14. “Throughout the revolution we never had so many sanctions and I am calling on you and all officials to take the sanctions seriously and not as jokes,” he said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

October 4, 1985

U.S. Federal Judge F. Owen Eagan has denied bail to Hilton Fernández and Luis Colón, two of the 13 Puerto Rican independence activists arrested in recent FBI raids in Puerto Rico, the United States, and Mexico.

The judge cited the 1984 Bail Reform Act, which restricts the right to bail for those the U.S. government considers “dangerous.” Eleven of these activists were arrested in a paramilitary FBI attack in Puerto Rico on August 30.

Some 200 FBI agents entered Puerto Rico, raiding 38 homes and offices of independence activists.

All were charged with participating in the \$7 million robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck in Connecticut in 1983. The U.S. government claims that these activists are members of the *Macheteros*, a pro-independence organization.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N. Y. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1963

NUMBER 100

October 3, 1960

An unscrupulous maneuver by the Democratic party to restrict the [New York] state ballot to the two capitalist parties received a decided setback yesterday when the office of the Secretary of State in Albany upheld the independent nominating petition for the presidential ticket of the Socialist Workers party.

The challenges were made by Monroe Goldwater of New York, Chairman of the Democratic State Legal Commission.

Despite the fact that the SWP filed 23,197 signatures, nearly twice the 12,000 required by law and more than doubled the requirement of 50 signatures from each of 61 counties in the state, Goldwater charged that neither minimum requirement was met.

THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1936

NUMBER 100

October 5, 1935

The armies of Italian Fascism, after months of deliberate preparation, have now launched their attack upon the Ethiopian peoples. Driven by the intolerable strains of internal social and economic contradictions, Mussolini and the Italian bourgeoisie seek a solution in open imperialist aggression against the last of the independent nations of Africa.

The outbreak of war in Africa demonstrates that the conflicts of world imperialism have reached the stage of armed struggle for a re-making of boundaries, and a re-division of territories and colonial possessions. The war in Ethiopia must be understood as the prelude to the new imperialist world war.

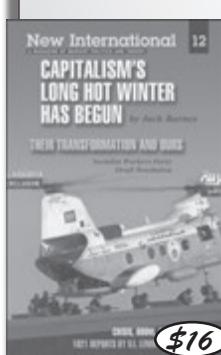
The Workers Party calls for the defense of the Ethiopian peoples against Italian aggression.

for further reading

New International no. 12

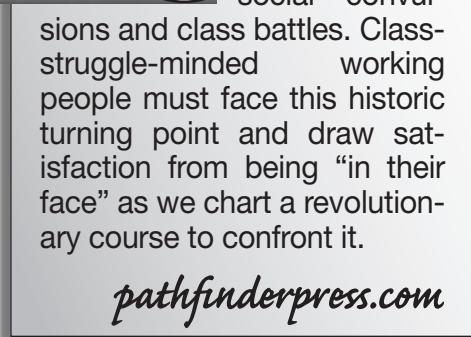
Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes



Today's sharpening interimperialist conflicts are fueled by the opening stages of what will be decades of economic, financial, and social convulsions and class battles. Class-struggle-minded working people must face this historic turning point and draw satisfaction from being “in their face” as we chart a revolutionary course to confront it.

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Conditions decline for all workers as crisis deepens

Below is an excerpt from the recently published book Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The excerpt is from the chapter titled "The Cosmopolitan 'Meritocracy' and the Changing Class Structure of the Black Nationality." Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

The gap in economic and social conditions between workers who are white and those who are Black *has* narrowed since the 1960s. But not because times have gotten better for most African Americans. The reason is that wages and living standards *have declined* for a growing majority of workers of all skin colors.

While the rate of births to unwed teenagers has risen sharply among both whites and African Americans since the 1960s, for example, the gap between young women who are Black and those who are white has dropped from a twelvefold difference to about two to one today.

A comparable driving down of the conditions facing all working people, with African Americans hit the hardest, is registered in the colossal increase in the size of the U.S. prison population over the past three decades. As of 2005 more than 700 U.S. residents out of every 100,000 were in prison or jail in this country. With only 5 percent of the world's population, the United States holds nearly 25 percent of all prisoners on earth—more than 2.2 million people! The highest incarceration rate of any country in the world—yes, *any* country! And if you sum up all those behind bars, on parole, or on probation, the total comes to more than 7 million people—more than 3 percent of the adult U.S. population.

The largest increase has been among African Americans. Some 577,000 Blacks were in prison or jail in 2005, a 58 percent increase just since 1990. Black men are eight times more likely than white men to be be-

hind bars. Altogether some 14 percent of Black men in their twenties were in jail or prison at some point in 2004. The numbers soar when you add in those on parole, probation, or doing "community service."

At the same time, in the years since 1980 there has also been a threefold increase in the imprisonment rate of white men in their twenties. Three times greater.

Working people in the United States, especially those with the lowest incomes, are also being hit hard by the disastrous consequences of the rulers' drive over the past quarter century to float their rate of profit on a sea of debt, in which we are left to drown. With real wages slowly declining throughout this period, it became more and more difficult for workers to cover the cost of basic necessities without relying on credit. This has reached the point in recent years where growing numbers of us have little or nothing left at the end of the month to pay off interest and principal on loans. We simply can't pay the bills.

Fettering working people with debt

How did this situation come about? Since the late 1960s the capitalists have confronted pressure on their average profit rate, which has gradually been trending down. The first post-1930s worldwide recession occurred in 1974–75. In face of this more than three-decade-long slowdown in capi-



AP/Adam Lau

Jobs fair at Los Angeles Mission in June. "Working people in the United States, especially those with the lowest incomes," said Barnes, "are being hit by the disastrous consequences of the rulers' drive over the past quarter of a century to float their rate of profit on a sea of debt."

tal accumulation, the rulers have held back expenditures for the expansion of productive capacity and large-scale employment of labor. In order to counter this stagnation, the political servants of the propertied rulers in the White House and Congress—Democrats and Republican alike—together with the Federal Reserve Board, have expanded the use of credit on a massive scale. They have done so not only by increasing the amount of funds on loan to previously unheard-of levels, but also by spreading the use of credit deep into the working class, including those with the lowest incomes. As the old Tennessee Ernie Ford song goes, many workers over the past century and more have "owed our souls to the company store," but never before in history has such debt spread its entangling roots so *widely* throughout the working class as in recent years. Nor so extensively throughout layers of

toilers in the semicolonial world.

Since the mid-1980s, Washington has not only flushed trillions of dollars into the banks but throughout the imperialist financial system has encouraged a degree of leverage that would make Las Vegas blush. The U.S. rulers have intervened continually in world markets to keep interest rates at historically low levels. In combination, these measures have kept banks in the United States awash with funds they needed to lend in order to boost their profit rates above those of competitors worldwide. The result has been a cascade of bank-driven "debt crises." Among the earliest targets of the banks were working farmers in the United States and the governments of oppressed nations across the Americas, Africa, and Asia—who were increasingly pushed toward default, and, in the case of farmers, into foreclosure and the loss of the land they tilled.

Cop interrogations force false confessions

BY SETH GALINSKY

Since 1989 more than 250 people who were convicted of crimes in the United States have been exonerated by post-conviction DNA testing. Forty-two of them had "confessed." Sixty percent of those exonerated are Black.

"How could innocent people convincingly confess to crimes they knew nothing about?" asks a recent article in the *Stanford Law Review* by

University of Virginia law professor Brandon Garrett.

"False confessions do not happen simply by happenstance," Garrett concludes. "They are carefully constructed during an interrogation and then reconstructed during any criminal trial that follows."

Garrett details how cops feed facts to the accused to get them to make statements that will stand up in court. While the Virginia law professor states that police who obtain false confessions "may not have done so intentionally or recklessly," the facts he cites tell a different story.

Some of the confessions were wrung from the accused before they were informed of their Miranda right to remain silent. The cops claimed the interrogations were being conducted before the person was officially in their custody.

One of the cases described is the frame-up conviction of Jeffrey Deskovic, 17 at the time, for rape and murder. Deskovic "was interrogated for hours over multiple sessions, including a session in which police had a tape recorder, but turned it on and off" whenever it suited them, the article says.

DNA tests conducted before the trial provided strong evidence that Deskovic was not involved. The district attorney told the jury to ignore the DNA evidence.

Deskovic, who is suing for violations of his civil rights after spending

16 years in prison, explained that believing "in the criminal justice system and being fearful for myself, I told them what they wanted to hear."

According to Garrett, pressures brought on the accused ranged from "threats combined with offers of leniency, to threats of physical force. Many described harrowing interrogations lasting many hours or days." This was sometimes combined with denial of food or sleep deprivation. In almost all of these 42 cases, the defendants later asked the court to suppress the confessions. Each time the judge refused.

To get a person to confess, the cops sometimes falsely stated they already had physical evidence or eyewitness testimony proving the person was guilty. That was the case in the 1989 "Central Park Jogger" case where five teenagers were framed up on charges of raping and beating a woman. Their convictions were overturned in 2002.

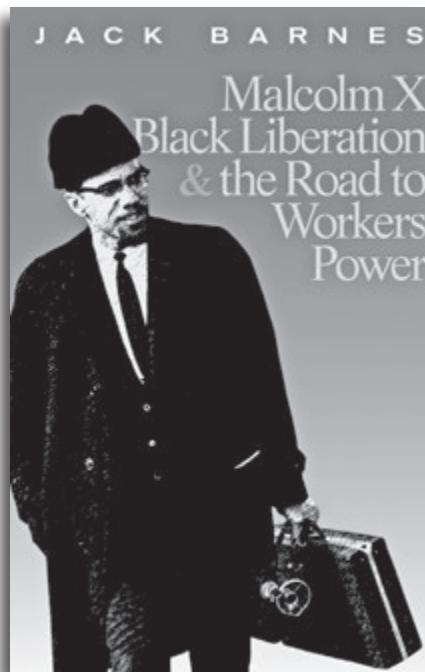
Garrett provides proof in case after case how the cops, once they forced an admission of guilt, worked, and reworked, the statements to tell the story they needed for conviction.

In the latest case, Phillip Bivens was freed from prison in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, September 16 after 30 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit. DNA evidence exonerated Bivens and two codefendants, one of whom died in prison. Bivens had confessed after he was told he could get the death penalty if he did not plead guilty.

Special offer

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes



"This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States—from the Civil War and Radical Reconstruction to today—and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution...."

Available for only \$15 or for \$10 with *Militant* subscription from one of the distributors listed on page 8.

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‘Spending beyond income jeopardizes revolution’

Raúl Castro explains Cuba’s economic challenges to communist youth congress

The following is an excerpt from an address by Cuban president Raúl Castro to the closing session of the Ninth Congress of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Havana April 4. The speech addresses challenges in forging proletarian leaders from the youngest generations in Cuba today, cadres who lead by example, imbued with habits of discipline and self-sacrifice.

In the excerpt printed here Castro focuses on the centrality of confronting the country’s economic challenges, which are made ever more difficult today by the combined effects of Washington’s decades-long embargo and the world capitalist depression. Detailed information on Cuba’s economic situation was distributed to 30,000 members of the UJC following discussion on these matters in the Communist Party leadership, National Assembly of People’s Power, and various levels of government.

We print this selection as major capitalist dailies have been featuring articles on recent decisions by the Cuban government to implement aspects of the economic course Raúl Castro outlines.

Through combination of deliberate misrepresentation, reporters’ ignorance, and wishful thinking, the articles have invariably presented these necessary moves by the Cuban government as motion toward capitalist restoration. Raúl Castro’s speech, however, makes clear they are part of a working-class trajectory aimed at maintaining the proletarian revolution and defending it against its class enemies led by Washington.

Translation and headings are by the *Militant*.



BY RAÚL CASTRO

Today, more than ever before, the economic battle is the main task and the focus of the ideological work of the cadres, because the sustainability and preservation of our social system depend on it.

Without a sound and dynamic economy and without eliminating superfluous expenses and waste, it will not be possible to raise the living standard of the population nor preserve and improve the high levels of education and health care guaranteed to every citizen free of charge.

Without an efficient and robust agriculture that we can develop with the resources available to us—without dreaming of the large allocations of the past—we can’t hope to maintain and increase the amount of food for the popu-

lation, instead of depending so much on importing products that could be grown in Cuba.

Without people feeling the need to work to be able to live—if they are protected by excessively paternalistic and irrational state regulations—we will never be able to encourage the love of work or solve the chronic shortage of construction, farm, and industrial workers; teachers; police; and other indispensable trades that little by little have been disappearing.

Without a firm and systematic social rejection of illegal activities and various displays of corruption, more than a few will continue to enrich themselves on the sweat of the majority while spreading attitudes that directly attack the essence of socialism.

If we keep inflated payrolls in nearly every field of national life and pay wages that have no connection to results, increasing the amount of money in circulation, we cannot expect that prices will stop their constant climb, which reduces people’s purchasing power. We know that government departments and government-funded enterprises have hundreds of thousands of workers in excess; some analysts estimate that there are more than one million excess positions. This is a very sensitive issue that we should face firmly and with political sense.

‘Will not leave anyone defenseless’

The revolution will not leave anyone defenseless. It will strive to create the necessary conditions for every Cuban to have a decent job, but this does not mean that the state will take charge of placing everyone in a job after they received several work offers. The citizens themselves should be the ones most interested in finding socially useful work.

In summary, to continue spending beyond our income is tantamount to eating up our future and jeopardizing the very survival of the revolution.

We are facing realities that are not at all pleasant, but we will not close our eyes to them. We are convinced that we need to break away from dogmas and firmly and confidently take on the ongoing upgrading of our economic model in order to lay the foundations of the irreversibility of Cuban socialism and its development, which we know is the guarantee of our national sovereignty and independence.

I know that some comrades sometimes get impatient and wish for immediate changes in many areas. Of course, I mean those who do this without any intention of playing the enemy’s game. We understand those concerns that, generally, stem from a lack of understanding of the magnitude of the work ahead of us, of its depth, and of the complexity of the interrelations between the different elements of society’s functioning that need to be modified.

Those who ask us to advance more rapidly should bear in mind the series of issues that we are studying, of which I have mentioned only a few today. In trying to solve a problem, we should avoid causing a greater one as a result of haste or improvisation. With regards to issues of strategic importance for the life of the entire nation we cannot let ourselves be carried away by emotion and act without the necessary comprehensiveness.



AP/Prensa Latina/Ismael Francisco

Cuban president Raúl Castro addresses Union of Young Communists in Havana, April 4.

As we have already explained, that is the only reason why we decided to postpone for a few months the celebration of the Party Congress and the National Conference that will precede it.

This is the biggest and most important challenge we face in order to ensure the continuity of the work built in these five decades, that our youth have assumed with full responsibility and conviction. The theme of this Congress is “Everything for the Revolution,” and that means, foremost, strengthening and consolidating the national economy. . . .

Cuban youth are called upon to take over from the generation that established the revolution. Leading the great strength of the masses requires a vanguard that convinces and mobilizes on the basis of authority that comes from personal example; led by firm, capable, and prestigious leaders; real leaders, not improvised ones, who have passed through the irreplaceable forge of the working class where the most genuine values of a revolutionary are cultivated. Life has eloquently demonstrated the dangers that come with violating that principle.

Fidel said it clearly in his closing remarks at the 2nd UJC Congress, on April 4, 1972, and I quote:

“No one will learn to swim on the ground, and no one will walk on the sea. A man is shaped by his environment; a man is made by his own life, by his own activity.”

And he concluded: “It is by creating that we shall learn to respect what work creates. We shall teach respect for those goods by teaching how to create them.”

This idea that he stated 38 years ago, and that was surely received with an ovation by that congress, is another clear example of things we agree to but then do not carry out. . . .

Meanwhile, it would seem that the standard-bearers of the so-much-trumpeted freedom of the press have forgotten that the economic and trade blockade against Cuba and all of its inhumane effects on our people is in full force and is being intensified; that the current U.S. administration has not stopped in the least its support to subversion; that the unfair, discriminatory, and meddling common position adopted by the European Union, sponsored at the time by the U.S. government and the Spanish right wing, is still in force demanding regime change in our country, or what

is the same thing, the destruction of the revolution.

More than half a century of permanent combat has taught our people that hesitation is synonymous with defeat.

We will never yield to blackmail from any country or group of nations, no matter how powerful they might be, and regardless of the consequences. We have the right to defend ourselves. Let them know that if they try to pen us in, we know how to defend ourselves, first of all with truth and principles. Once again we will be firm, calm, and patient. Our history is rich in such examples! . . .

Effects of Soviet Union’s collapse

More recently, the Cuban people gave an indelible example of their capacity for resistance and their self-confidence when, as a result of the demise of the socialist camp and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Cuba suffered a 35 percent drop in its gross domestic product; an 85 percent cut in its foreign trade; the loss of markets for its main exports such as sugar, nickel, citrus, and others whose prices plummeted by half; the loss of credits on favorable terms with the subsequent interruption of numerous crucial investments like the first nuclear power station and the Cienfuegos Refinery; the collapse of transportation, construction, and agriculture with the instant loss of the supply of spare parts, fertilizer, feed, and raw material for industry, which caused the shutdown of hundreds and hundreds of factories and led to the sudden quantitative and qualitative deterioration of food supplies for our people to levels below those recommended for adequate nutrition.

We all suffered those warm summers of the first half of the 1990s, when the blackouts exceeded 12 hours a day due to the lack of fuel for electrical generation. And, while all this was happening, scores of Western press agencies, some of them with unconcealed jubilation, were sending their correspondents to Cuba with the intention of getting the first reports of the final defeat of the revolution.

Amidst this dramatic situation, no one was left to their own fate; the strength stemming from the unity of the people when they defend just ideas and works built with so much sacrifice was evident. Only a socialist regime, despite its deficiencies, can successfully pass such a gigantic test.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 had a worldwide political impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland. As the proletarian-based struggle for Black rights was advancing in the U.S., the social transformation fought for and won by Cuban toilers set an example that socialist revolution is not only necessary—it can be made and defended.

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Sankara: 'We are heirs of the world's revolutions'

Below is an excerpt from *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions*. The Spanish edition is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. The book contains several speeches by Thomas Sankara, who led the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso. In October 1984 Sankara addressed the United Nations General Assembly. His presentation, which is excerpted here, explains how the peasants and workers of this West African country established a popular revolutionary government and began to fight the hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness imposed by imperialist domination. Copyright © 2002 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Margaret A. Novicki/Africa Report

Literacy class in Kamboune, Burkina Faso, March 1986. In the former Upper Volta the illiteracy rate was 98 percent. "The diagnosis was clearly somber," stated Sankara. "The root of the disease was political. The treatment could only be political."

the minds of others. We had to give an ideological soul to the just struggles of our popular masses as they mobilized against the monster of imperialism. The passing revolt, the simple brushfire, had to be replaced forever with the revolution, the permanent struggle against all forms of domination.

Others have explained before me, and others will explain after me, the extent to which the chasm has widened between the affluent peoples and those who aspire only to eat their fill, quench their thirst, survive, and preserve their dignity. But no one can imagine to what extent "the poor man's grain" in our countries "has fattened the rich man's cow"!

In the case of the former Upper Volta, the process was even more striking. We represented a wondrous condensation, the epitome of all the calamities that have ever befallen the so-called developing countries. The example of foreign aid, presented as a panacea and often heralded without rhyme or reason, bears eloquent witness to this fact. Very few countries have been inundated like mine with all kinds of aid. Theoretically, this aid is supposed to work in the interests of our development. In the case of what was formerly Upper Volta, one searches in vain for a sign of anything having to do with development. The men in power, either out of naivety or class selfishness, could not or would not take control of this influx from abroad, understand

its significance, or raise demands in the interests of our people.

In his book, *Le Sahel demain* [The Sahel of tomorrow], Jacques Giri, with a good deal of common sense, analyzes a table published in 1983 by the Sahel Club, and draws the conclusion that because of its nature and the mechanisms in place, aid to the Sahel helps only with bare survival. Thirty percent of this aid, he stresses, serves simply to keep the Sahel alive. According to Jacques Giri, the only goal of this foreign aid is to continue developing nonproductive sectors, saddling our meager budgets with unbearably heavy expenditures, disorganizing our countryside, widening our balance of trade deficit, and accelerating our indebtedness.

Just a few images to describe the former Upper Volta: 7 million inhabitants, with over 6 million peasants; an infant mortality rate estimated at 180 per 1,000; an average life expectancy limited to 40 years; an illiteracy rate of up to 98 percent, if we define as literate anyone who can read, write, and speak a language; 1 doctor for 50,000 inhabitants; 16 percent of school-age youth attending school; and, finally, a per capita Gross Domestic Product of 53,356 CFA francs, or barely more than 100 U.S. dollars.

The diagnosis was clearly somber. The root of the disease was political. The treatment could only be political. Of course, we encourage aid that aids

us in doing away with aid. But in general, welfare and aid policies have only ended up disorganizing us, subjugating us, and robbing us of a sense of responsibility for our own economic, political, and cultural affairs. We chose to risk new paths to achieve greater well-being. We chose to apply new techniques.

We chose to look for forms of organization better suited to our civilization, flatly and definitively rejecting all forms of outside diktats, in order to lay the foundations for achieving a level of dignity equal to our ambitions. Refusing to accept a state of survival, easing the pressures, liberating our countryside from medieval stagnation or even regression, democratizing our society, opening minds to a world of collective responsibility in order to dare to invent the future. Shattering the administrative apparatus, then rebuilding it with a new kind of government employee, immersing our army in the people through productive labor and reminding it constantly that without patriotic political education, a soldier is only a potential criminal. Such is our political program.

On the level of economic management, we're learning to live modestly, to accept and impose austerity on ourselves in order to be able to carry out ambitious projects. . . .

To all of you listening to me, allow me to say: I speak not only on behalf of my beloved Burkina Faso, but also on behalf of all those who are in pain somewhere.

I speak on behalf of the millions of human beings who are in ghettos because they have black skin or because they come from different cultures, and who enjoy a status barely above that of an animal.

I suffer on behalf of the Indians who have been massacred, crushed, humiliated, and confined for centuries on reservations in order to prevent them from aspiring to any rights and to prevent them from enriching their culture through joyful union with other cultures, including the culture of the invader.

I cry out on behalf of those thrown out of work by a system that is structurally unjust and periodically unhinged, who are reduced to only glimpsing in life a reflection of the lives of the affluent.

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

We had to take the leadership of the peasant revolts, signs of which were visible in a countryside that is panic-stricken by the advancing desert, exhausted by hunger and thirst, and abandoned. We had to give meaning to the brewing revolt of the idle urban masses, frustrated and weary of seeing limousines driving the elites around, elites that were out of touch, succeeding one another at the helm of state while offering the urban masses nothing but false solutions elaborated and conceived by

September BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Join socialist campaign October 2

Militant readers have an opportunity to join tens of thousands of trade unionists who will march in Washington, D.C., and other cities October 2 to demand relief from unemployment and an end to cutbacks in social services. You can help campaign at these actions with Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters, reaching out to demonstrators with the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes, and with a special subscription offer to the *Militant*.

The October 2 demonstrations, called by the NAACP and major trade unions, demand jobs, justice, and education. Workers will be marching because capitalism's depression is continuing to hammer them, and the government is taking no measures to reverse the loss of jobs and social services. The latest U.S. Census Bureau statistics underscore this: by the government's own contrived figures poverty in the working-age population in the United States increased in 2009 to its highest level in almost 50 years—one out

of every seven people. These figures were announced about the same time as the government stated that the recession officially ended 15 months ago.

Union officials organizing the October 2 marches hope to turn them into rallies for the election of Democrats in November, to convince workers to join with them in hustling votes for capitalist politicians. For vanguard workers, on the other hand, October 2 offers a chance to talk with thousands of unionists and other workers about how the economic crisis is rooted in the profit system and why the revolutionary overturn of capitalist rule and the conquest of state power by the working class is needed. As Barnes writes in the *Workers Power* book, "that new state power provides working people the mightiest weapon possible to wage the ongoing battle to end Black oppression and every form of exploitation and human degradation."

Join in the effort! Contact *Militant* distributors nearest you (see page 8) or look for the SWP campaign table at the October 2 demonstrations.

Poverty up as recession's end announced

Continued from front page
access to various social benefits.

The economic crisis has hit Blacks and Latinos hardest. More than a quarter of African Americans and Latinos live below the government's poverty line. More than one-third of those labeled as living in poverty are children. Almost 40 percent of families headed by single women now live in poverty—more than half of the 6.6 million families counted as poor.

The situation for female-headed households has worsened since the passage of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, during the presidency of William Clinton. The law eliminated Aid to Families with Dependent Children and put a lifetime limit of five years on welfare payments a family could receive. This was the biggest success to date in the U.S. government's effort to erode Social Security and other measures fought for and won by working people from the labor struggles of the 1930s to the civil rights battles of the 1960s.

While acknowledging the increase in poverty, President Barack Obama claimed that because of his policies "millions of Americans were kept out of poverty last year."

Millions of workers were kept out of the poverty statistics—because they moved in with their parents or other families and were included in the total household income.

The number of multifamily households increased dramatically in the last year. "If the poverty status of related subfamilies were determined by only their

own income, their poverty rate would be 44.2 percent," said David Johnson, chief of the Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. The rate falls to 17 percent when based on the resources of all household members.

Close to half of the households in the United States have someone receiving government benefits such as Social Security, subsidized housing, or unemployment—the highest percentage ever recorded. The number of people receiving food stamps increased 45 percent in the past two years.

Food pantries around the country report an increase in those requesting help. Approximately one and a half million people in New York City rely on food pantries, soup kitchens, and federal food stamps in order to get enough to eat.

The Census Bureau is now planning to change the way poverty figures are calculated, claiming this will create "an improved understanding of the economic well-being of American families." The government will start counting food stamps and tax credits as income under the new rules. Almost 8 million additional people would have been removed from the poverty figures in 2009 if the new methods had been used.

The decision to recalculate how to measure poverty is similar to the Clinton administration's 1994 move to only count those unemployed workers who had been looking for a job for less than a year as part of the workforce. With this measure, he was able to erase millions of jobless workers from the official unemployment figures.

Tea party gains unnerve ruling parties

Continued from front page

neous grouping, its supporters often rail against the Republican "establishment" as much as they do against the Democrats. "George W. Bush and many incumbents, including President Obama, are the reason we even have the Tea Party movement," said Fox news commentator Andrea Tantaros, a tea party proponent. She complained that Bush was responsible for "open borders, tax cuts that expire, Medicare Part D, and busted budgets."

Paladino's "combative style" has unnerved his opponents. Paladino challenged Democratic gubernatorial nominee Andrew Cuomo to "come out and debate like a man." Cuomo, so far, has skirted Paladino's challenge.

"I've been saying everything you just said from the beginning of this campaign," Cuomo told the *New York Post*, referring to Paladino's economic proposals. "You're going to have to cut the programs because you're not going to be able to pay the amount."

Some Democratic Party tops are hoping that the fracture lines in the Republican Party will bolster their chances in the November elections. But many union officials and others see the tea party successes as a threat to the Democrats too.

"Labor leaders, alarmed at a possible Republican takeover of one or both houses of Congress, promise to devote a record amount of money and manpower to helping Democrats stave off disaster," the *New York Times* wrote September 17.

"The problem for us is to really re-excite the rank and file to the greatest degree possible," Gerald McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, told the *Times*, noting that union members were "disappointed" at the lack of government action, "especially to create jobs."

"We heard everything was going to change," Mike DeGasperis, a steelworker from Martins Ferry, Ohio, told the *Times*, referring to the election of Obama. "But there hasn't been much change and the unemployment is still bad and the area we live in is still really depressed." He said he had not decided which candidates he will support.

Union officials and the NAACP are pulling out the stops for the October 2 march for "jobs, justice, and education" they have called for Washington, D.C. They hope the event will convince unionists and other workers to get out the vote for the Democrats. March organizers say they are expecting hundreds of thousands to turn out for the action.

Illinois socialists

Continued from front page
backs of the working class.

Flanked by more than 20 city officials, the mayor said the worst recession in 70 years has had a huge negative impact on Chicago's tax revenues.

In the last two years the city has cut more than \$400 million in spending. Many city workers' wages have been cut through unpaid holidays, mandatory unpaid furloughs, reductions in health care, and compensating overtime work with extra time off instead of pay.

Dozens of working people spoke at the hearing held at the North Grand High School. Several argued for the city to redirect its priorities to quality affordable housing, especially for the elderly. Others spoke of the need to improve city-funded mental health facilities, which have deteriorated because of budget cuts in recent years.

"The proposals these Democratic and Republican party politicians are making for job combinations and reductions in city services show that the living standards, wages, and working conditions of Chicago's working class are not their priorities," Hawkins said.

"They try to convince us that their spending proposals are in the interests of everyone. But that's not true. Their priorities are in the interests of one class—the capitalist class—and not in the interests of our class—the working class," emphasized Hawkins. "That's why about 20 percent of their \$3.4 billion budget goes to service the debt owed to a tiny handful of bondholders."

"We need a labor party, based on a fighting union movement, that puts workers' interests first. That's a course toward taking political power from the capitalists who exploit us."

"The Socialist Workers Party urges the union movement and all working people to join us in demanding: No cuts in city services; No layoffs of city workers; Give city workers back the 24 furlough days; Hands off the pensions of city workers."

In response to Hawkins's comments on the furlough days, several workers in the audience exclaimed, "That's right!" Many applauded after he finished speaking. Several stopped to take campaign literature and buy copies of the *Militant* as they left the hearing.

The morning before the hearing the socialist candidate joined a picket line and rally outside state attorney general Lisa Madigan's office demanding immediate hearings for 23 African American and Latino men in Illinois prisons convicted on the basis of false confessions extracted from them by cop torturers.

L.A. cop brutality

Continued from front page
a busy street corner on a Sunday afternoon.

The day after the shooting hundreds of residents gathered and marched to the Ramparts police station in protest. The police responded in full riot gear, and attacked demonstrators.

Hernandez and two other cops claimed they had been called because a man was threatening people with a knife, and that Hernandez fired when Jamines raised a knife and moved toward him. Ana, a school cafeteria worker who only gave her first name to the media, said she saw the shooting from across the street. Jamines "had nothing in his hands," she insisted.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa vigorously defended the cops. "We've got to go through an investigation," he said. "But when it's all said and done, I'll guarantee you what's going to come out is that these guys are heroes, and I stand by them."

"The cops definitely do not 'protect' the community. They do the opposite. They abuse the law," said Danny Cruz, 23, a restaurant worker who lives a few blocks from where Jamines was killed. "The media is using this as another opportunity to criminalize Hispanics."

Eleanor García, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in District 33, has joined the rallies and vigils to protest the killing by police. "The capitalist politicians defend the cops and the entire 'justice' system that they use to punish and control working people," she said in a campaign statement. "Police brutality is inherent in their system."

"Working people need to mobilize to demand the jailing of these killer cops!"